

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A pipe coupling for connecting a pipe to a counter-flange associated with another pipe in a sealed manner, wherein the pipe is formed with a circumferential groove, the coupling comprising a single gasket, a mounting ring, and a mounting flange having a coned shaped inner surface, wherein said mounting ring has a cone-shaped outer surface and is elastically expandable and grips-engages around the groove by a projection ~~portions~~portion fitting ~~there into~~thereinto and holding the ring affixed to the pipe ~~with said mounting flange having a cone shaped inner surface and being~~ when tightened towards against the ring, the gasket and the counter-flange.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is split.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 22 wherein the ring is split by a cut extending in an axial plane thereof.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 22 wherein the ring is split by a cut extending in a non-axial plane thereof.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is made of plastic material.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the projection ~~portions~~portion ~~comprise~~ comprises a circular rib.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 26 wherein the rib is of a generally saw-tooth shape having a right-angled side and a beveled side.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is formed with a circular recess for the gasket, and the gasket is elastomeric.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 28 wherein the gasket is formed with an inner slot.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 29 wherein the gasket is formed with a thin flap.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring has an outer cone-shaped surface.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 31 wherein the cone angle is between 150-300 degrees relative to the axis of the ring.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 32 wherein an upright shoulder extends around the end of the cone-shaped surface.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the mounting flange is formed with an inner cone-shaped surface matching the cone-shaped surface of the ring.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 34 wherein the mounting flange is formed with a series of bores through which tightening bolts are adapted to pass.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 31 wherein the series of bores are partly surrounded by arcuate projections.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is composed of more than one segment, the segments being held together by an elastic band.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 37 wherein metal inserts are interposed between adjacent segments.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 38 wherein the segments and inserts are held together by the elastic band threaded therethrough.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is made of sheet metal.